

The FCC has eliminated many of the remaining regulations on media concentration. Most recently, the FCC voted unanimously to review laws that prohibit the same company from owning both a newspaper and a TV station in the same geographic area, and laws that limit the percent of the national audience that a single cable company can reach.

I oppose the FCC's move to weaken the regulations against cross-ownership. The ban on cross-ownership will lead to further media consolidation and will not serve the public interest.

Besides the wholly predictable result of a single company controlling a town's TV stations, radio stations, cable company and only newspaper, elimination of this rule will essentially signal the absorption of the newspaper business into the television industry, with a negative impact on the quality of print journalism. Newspaper companies "see savings in news gathering by combining with TV stations as a big plus," an industry analyst told the L.A. Times (9/14/01), giving an indication that the newly merged megacompanies would provide communities with less news, not more.

Best regards,
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